

E. # 1729

DOCUMENT 5701

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A F F I D A V I T

Today, Wednesday 22nd May 1946, there appeared before myself:

Joseph Godfried Benders, Captain for Special Services, Head of the Netherlands War Crimes Investigation Team at Singapore,
at: The Javanese Camp Soengei Besi, Kuala Lumpur
a person who on enquiry declared himself to be:

Name: KASA BIN SANTAMI 25 years old

Address: Javanese Camp Soengei Besi, Kuala Lumpur.
Future Address: Mergawati, Tjilatjap Regency.

5. Can you give any information about acts of violence committed against yourself or others, which you have witnessed?

It would be about three years ago that I was ordered by the chief of my hamlet to go and work for the Japanese for a year overseas. I had no objection to this. There were nine of us from my hamlet, and we were placed on a transport to Batavia. Two days later we were already aboard and left for Sekedjang (Riouw) under Japanese escort. Here we had to fell trees. We worked here under a Japanese contractor, whose name was Osake. This man was a brute. Every day he beat many people for some alleged triviality. Often he gave beatings entirely without reason. When we were ordered to perform a task that was physically impossible for the simple reason that it was beyond our strength, he would thrash at random. Whenever we reported being sick, the only result was a good spanking. Usually he beat with a piece of wood as thick as an arm. I myself have personally undergone this, when I was ordered to perform a task beyond my strength and which I was thus unable to carry out. I was beaten with a piece of wood on my back repeatedly and until I bled (the witness shows me, the interrogator, three scars on his back, each of approximately 6 cms. in length and 1 cm. wide). Although I felt ill after this, I did not dare to stop working, through fear of being further maltreated. One special case of maltreatment of which I myself and many others were eye witnesses, is the following:

One of our comrades named Kartasan, whose present address is unknown to me, had bought a shirt. Osake wrongly assumed that Kartasan had stolen the shirt. By way of punishment, he was bound with his hands behind his back, hung up on a tree in such a way that his feet just touched the ground. The defenceless coolie was then sprinkled on the head with petroleum and his hair was then set alight. He yelled with pain.

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His head was completely swollen and blood came out of it. After Kartasan had been unbound and cleaned up by his friends, Osake slapped him with full force many times on his face with an open hand, whereafter he was taken to the hospital. He stayed there for a month. After he had been beaten by Osake he was poured full with water by him, until his stomach swelled up.

Food in the camp was very bad and thoroughly insufficient. Three times a day we received a small handful of rice and maize (corn) and a little vegetable, and every now and then a very small piece of fish.

In the case of serious illness, we received medical treatment from a Japanese doctor and then medicine was also supplied; but the number of sick was exceedingly great. The sick were principally suffering from malaria (there were no mosquito-nets), dysentery and beri-beri. According to my estimate, during the year that I was in the camp, more than 500 persons out of a total of 750 have died.

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VERIFICATION BY THE WITNESS

I, the undersigned KASA bin SANTAMI mentioned-above, hereby declare that I was led in and heard on oath by the interrogator, who informed me that the oath taken by me was still binding upon me, and having heard my above sworn statement read to me in my native language and shown to me, I declare that it is a true and accurate statement.

Oath administered by:

Javanese Camp, Kuala Lumpur

Sd/ Pena Tasin

23rd May 1946

The witness abovenamed:

Sd/ Kasa

The above statements have been signed in my presence and this official record has been truly drawn up and subsequently signed by myself, the interrogator.

On 23rd May 1946 at Kuala Lumpur Javanese Camp

The abovenamed interrogator:

Sd/ Capt. JG. Benders.

Certified a true copy:

Head of the Netherlands War Crimes
Investigation Team at Singapore:Sd/ JG. Benders.

WIT 6701

C E R T I F I C A T E

The undersigned, CHARLES JONGENEEL, Captain R.N.I.A., Head of the War Crimes Section of NETHERLANDS FORCES INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (NEFIS) being first duly sworn on oath deposes and states that the annexed documents, entitled :

Affidavit of KASA bin Santami, coolie, dated 22 May 1946.

concerning illtreatment of "romusha" (forced coolies) by the Japanese authorities in the coolie-camps in Malaya and neighborhood,

have been taken from the official records of the NEFIS.

SIGNATURE :

Sd/ Ch. Jongeneel

BATAVIA, 23 July 1946.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, K.A. de WEERD, LL.D. first Lieutenant R.N.I.A., Senior Official attached to the Office of the Attorney - General, N.E.I.

Sd/ K. A. de Weerd